

SPARC GAP

ST. PETERSBURG AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

CLUB CALL W4GAC

REPEATER CALL WR4ALM

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33731

CLUB MEETING ON THE FIRST FRIDAY

REPEATER MEETING ON THE THIRD FRIDAY OF EACH MONTH

JUNE 1978.



PRESIDENT C.E.(REX) Cottrell W4GPL
800 Bay Point Dr. Madeira Beach 33708
Phone 391-5158

EDITOR-PUBLISHER Jack Adams W4NOK
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S P A R C G A P

OUR NEXT MEETING WILL BE ON JUNE 2, 1978 AT 8:00 P.M. AT THE RED CROSS

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Auction!!!! Bring your hamgear, jewelry, etc. and have a good time.

The meeting of May 5, 1978 was called to order by Rex Cottrell W4GPL. Seventy members and guests were welcomed.

Vic and Linda Astolfi, WB4FYS and WB4FYU, were with us and presented a program with a computer. It was a fine presentation. Several people tried the computer and found that it was a good way to learn code.

woody Huddleston K4SCL gave the repeater Engineering Report. He stated that the repeater is in good condition now, but warned of the bad weather coming through the summer months. Woody also reported on the emergency that took place on May 4th involving the High Point Elementary School. The Pinellas County Emergency Net was called to order by hex Cottrell W4GPL with 33 stations checking in. The Net remained on the air until the high water and winds were no longer a problem.

The Red Cross had a hurricane drill with Civil Defense recently.

Herb Tuell W4IKA gave the Repeater Control report. He said that several control operators have returned to the North for the summer, and that there were several new operators filling the vacant positions. More operators will be needed this summer as people go away on vacation.

Bob Irowning K5IDH/4 gave the Net Report. He stated that he has a couple of people in training, and requested additional volunteers.

Hank Huth gave the Publicity report. He submitted two articles to Florida Skip this past month. He stated that it is hard to get publicity in the local newspapers.

The Treasurer's Report was given by Frank Ryll #4VIP. It was approved as read.

The minutes of the last meeting were read and approved.

The meeting was recessed at 8:45 p.m. for coffee and doughnuts, and was called back to order at 9:03 p.m.

Jack Gordon W4MIM told about using a TV set to pick up tornado sightings as far as 10 miles away.

John Smith W4ACG gave the Station Report.

Terry O'Hearn WB4OY4 gave the Civil Defense report. He stated that the CD office was very hectic during the recent emergency.

Jack Mandal W4PLW's son was killed recently. Our deepest sympathy to
Jack and his wife.

The reduced postage rate was denied because the bylaws state that we are a "Social Club".

On May 23, 1978 there will be a County Wide Hospital Emergency training drill. Emergency drills must be held in local hospitals several times each year to obtain federal money and remain accredited. The members of the SPARC repeated volunteered to assist.

Dayle LeBeau W4MUV suggested we have better coordination between the different clubs in the area during emergencies.

The Metro Amateur Radio Club will coordinate Field Day this year. Field Day will be held the last weekend in June, and will take place at CD Headquarters.

The Tampa Bay Computer Club asked for a liaison with our club.

There will be a YL Net each Sunday at 2000 hrs. on 37/97.

Rex Cottrell W4GPL called the Mayor's office to invite her to a meeting and to receive an Honorary Member certificate, but was told that she was booked solid for the next four months. He will try again at a later date.

The SPARC Annual Hamfest will be held on Sunday, May 7th at Lake Maggiore. Final plans were made.

A reminder that an auction will be held at the next meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 9:55 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Faith Morgan WA4WOU

S P A R C G A P

SPARC ANNUAL PICNIC/HAMFEST

The day dawned cloudy and showers were forecast, but there was nothing but sunshine in the smiles of those who attended the SPARC Annual Hamfest on Sunday, May 7th. Lake Maggiore Park in south St. Pete was the ideal location to hold a picnic/hamfest and many compliments were heard on the repeater about the lovely lake and convenient facilities.

Gene Scarbro, WB4VWO, did his usual excellent job as MC and announcer, and special thanks go to everyone who helped plan, obtain prizes, print tickets, and follow through on the hundred little things that make a hamfest run smoothly.

There were many prizes awarded to lucky folks that were donated by local stores. Ray's Amateur Radio on U.S. 19 in Clearwater donated a 2 meter mobile antenna, Ham Radio magazines, and two handbooks. AGL Electronics of Clearwater donated a \$50.00 gift certificate, and Sky Towers of Vero Beach donated a rotor base plate. There were many children's prizes and several lovely lady's prizes including an exceptionally beautiful hand-crochet shawl. The three main prizes were money prizes and were won by Joe Warren WA4RVT of Tampa, \$66.00 (third prize), John Merada WB4LWB, our past president, \$66.00 (second prize) and Walter C. Ward K4AEA of Merritt Island, \$132.00 (first prize).

Because it was such a good day renewing old friendships, we are anxiously looking forward to HAMFEST '79.

de WA4WOU

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MONDAY-SATURDAY HOURS: 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM

IF JESUS CAME TO YOUR HOUSE

If Jesus came to your house to spend a day or two--
If He came unexpectedly, I wonder what you'd do.
Oh, I know you'd give your nicest room to such an honored Guest,
And all the food you'd serve to Him would be the very best,
And you would keep assuring Him you're glad to have Him there--
That serving Him in your own home is joy beyond compare.

But--when you saw Him coming, would you meet Him at the door
With arms outstretched in welcome to your heavenly Visitor?
Or would you have to change your clothes before you let Him in?
Or hide some magazines and put the Bible where they'd been?
Would you turn off the radio and hope He hadn't heard?
And wish you hadn't uttered that last, loud, hasty word?

Would you hide your worldly music and put some hymn books out?
Could you let Jesus walk right in, or would you rush about?
And I wonder--if the Saviour spent a day or two with you,
Would you go right on doing the things you always do?
Would you go right on saying the things you always say?
Would life for you continue as it does from day to day?

Would your family conversation keep up its usual pace?
And would you find it hard each meal to say a table grace?
Would you sing the songs you always sing, and read the books you read,
And let Him know the things on which your mind and spirit feed?
Would you take Jesus with you everywhere you'd planned to go?
Or would you, maybe, change your plans for just a day or so?

Would you be glad to have Him meet your very closest friends?
Or would you hope they'd stay away until His visit ends?
Would you be glad to have Him stay forever on and on?
Or would you sigh with great relief when He at last was gone?
It might be interesting to know the things that you would do
If Jesus Christ in person came to spend some time with you.

--Lois Kendall Blanchard

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SPARC GAP

THE PRES SEZ:

Hi Folks! Here we are with another month gone in 1978. April has been a very successful month for Hams in general and SPARC in particular. All of our public service activities have been a success. I don't have the words to say "thanks" to the many Hams that have made our activities come out on the plus side. The unstinting efforts of our active members have been a pleasure to experience.

The insight that Vic and Linda, WA4FYU and WA4FYS, gave us into computer code teaching was very interesting at the last club meeting. We were greatly pleased to see a total of 70 members and guests present. Keep it up folks, we are more than happy to get to see you, and please give us the benefit of your thinking as to things you would like to hear about at these meetings. As you know, we are planning an auction for the June meeting. If you have some ham gear, or the XYI has some jewelry trinkets to sell, bring them along. As a suggestion, put a note on your items as to the minimum price you feel each item should go for. This is for the information of the auctioneer.

In future meetings this year, it is planned to have a member of the Weather Bureau staff in for a talk on weather reporting and various interesting films oriented toward Hams.

By now you probably know that we had a paid attendance of 698 at the Picnic Hamfest on Sunday the 7th. It was good to see quite a few of you that we only see at such places. Apparently, almost everyone found something at the swap tables. Our BIG FRIEND K5THH went in for big heavy items, and our popular announcer, WB4VWO, was seen with a 40 foot crank-up tower secured to the top of his pretty new van. The efforts of WA4WKO with tickets, and everyone who helped him, were certainly appreciated. Hank found out that selling tickets surely covers great many things, HI. Then WB4LAD and W4VIP spent two hours or more in Toy world selecting prizes-just a couple of kids, I guess. WA4TJG and my wife, Thelma, were two happy Gals as they purchased prizes for the ladies. Again, THANKS to all those that helped out, and your efforts surely don't go unappreciated.

Everyone have a good month, and we will hope to see you ALL at the next meeting.

Very 73
Kex W4GPL

OFFICIAL BULLETIN NR 703 FROM ARRL HEADQUARTERS NEWINGTON CT APRIL 13, 1978 TO ALL RADIO AMATEURS BT

The deadline for filing petitions for reconsideration in Dockets 21116 and 21117 is April 26, 1978. These FCC dockets would prohibit the marketing of external radio frequency amplifiers capable of operation on any frequency between 24 and 35 MHz, and would bring all amplifiers capable of operation below 144 MHz under the control of the Commissions type acceptance program. The text of these dockets may be found in the March 27, 1978 edition of the Federal Register, available at your local library. Petitions for reconsideration may be sent to the Secretary, FCC, Washington, DC 20554. AR

OFFICIAL BULLETIN NR 708 FROM ARRL HEADQUARTERS NEWINGTON CTN MAY 4, 1978 TO ALL RADIO AMATEURS BT

During the summer travel season many amateurs visit ARRL Headquarters and W1AW. The League Headquarters office building is open to visitors from Monday through Friday from eight AM to five PM EDST without appointment. Visits other than during these hours can be arranged by writing ahead to ARRL. The Maxim Memorial Station W1AW is open for visitors during additional hours as announced in QST. Both the Headquarters building and W1AW will be closed on May 29, July 4 and September 4. Printed directions to ARRL are available for a self addressed and stamped envelope with thirteen cent postage to ARRL, 225 Main Street, Newington CT 06111. If you plan to operate from W1AW remember to bring your original license, not a photocopy. AR

S P A R C G A P

THE TWO METER A-1 OPERATOR'S TEST

by WD4COL

Test your two meter operating skills. Mark either A, B, C, or D for each question.

1. The proper way to enter a QSO on a repeater is to: (a) say "break one-niner"
(b) say "break-break" so everyone thinks you are having an emergency and will
be sure to let you in (c) just talk over the other guy, especially if you are
at a base station (d) enter your call during a break in the conversation
2. When signing out of a QSO, just say: (a) "I won't hold you...", then hold him
(b) that you are 10-10 on the side (c) "(your call) is clear" (d) the call of
the station you were talking to followed by your call
3. The main purpose of a repeater is to: (a) let the technical types keep us on
our toes (b) provide an audience for long-winded monologues (c) let non-amateur
xyl's monitor hubby's adventures (d) increase the range of mobile stations
4. Repeaters should be supported by: (a) guy wires (b) the United Way (c) offerings
taken at Sunday repeater meetings (d) amateurs who use the repeater
5. Questionable language or obscenities are permissible: (a) only during nasty hour
(b) when a CB'er lifts his mike to you and yells, "get on channel 41" (c) when
your non-amateur xyl says hello to you from the base station rig (d) never
6. When a unidentified or otherwise illegal signal interferes on the repeater:
(a) blow a police whistle into your mike (b) announce that nasty hour is now
in session (c) give the station the attention he needs by getting mad (d) ignore it
7. Conducting business over the air is permissible: (a) if your radio is made in Japan
(b) anytime (c) only on Friday from noon to 1:00 P.M. (d) never
8. Good operators: (a) "jam" poor operators (b) listen little, talk much (c) generally
^{AVOID}
stay from two meters (d) talk little, listen much
9. One of the most important uses of a repeater is to: (a) make sure it is on by
kerchunking it (b) enhance the copy between base stations less than 3 blocks
from each other (c) provide a market for 160 watt amplifiers (d) extend the
range of mobile stations
10. When checking into a net: (a) wait for a weak station to check in and then
clobber him (b) be certain you have nothing to say before making comments (c) turn
on your kw linear to prevent "doubling" (d) follow net control's directions and be orderly
11. You should sign your call letters: (a) anytime the spirit moves you (b) after every
sentence (c) with your CB handle included (d) every 10 minutes except between rapid
exchanges
12. Autopatch is: (a) for amateurs who wreck their cars after being put to sleep by
monologues (b) great for ordering ahead for pizza (c) an invention by the same
xyl who coined the phrase "why didn't you call?" (d) a service for non-commercial
and personal phone calls via amateur radio
13. A repeater that is not in use for over 10 minutes is: (a) broken (b) a closed machine
(c) probably not worth talking on anyway (d) getting a well deserved rest





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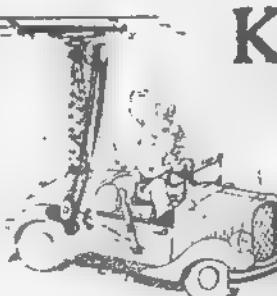
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me, you have lost nothing;
but if you meet JESUS
CHRIST and forget Him
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14. The control station is: (a) a sadist (b) a masochist (c) fun to aggravate by kerchunking the machine (d) an amateur who voluntarily gives of his time so that repeater operation is possible

15. Traffic handling is: (a) at its best during smoky time on channel 19 (b) hard work
(c) beyond the ability of the average ham (d) one of the foundations of ham radio
and a great prep for emergencies

ANSWERS: 1-D 2-B 3-B 4-A 5-P 6-P 7-P 8-P 9-P 10-P 11-P 12-P 13-P 14-P 15-P

SCORE: 15 correct- A-1 Operator; 13-14 correct- quality operator; 11-12 correct- lid

10 or less correct- let me tell you about CB, OK?

John R. MacDonald, WD4COL
1655 S. Highland Ave. A-107
Clearwater, Fl. 33516

The following article may be of great interest to your readers. I am pleased to bring it to your attention.

Congratulations to 77 year old Arthur Shaw, AA4BI. Arthur was first licensed in 1916 with amateur call 1AEQ. When all amateur activity was suspended during the first World War, Arthur let his license lapse. It was 61 years later that he contacted WD4COL, a friend, about relicensing. By November, Arthur held novice call WD4NMT. In February of 1978, He passed his general test and under the grandfather act, was immediately issued his amateur extra class license. At present, Arthur can be found operating on all amateur bands on all modes, but still prefers to "pound brass". -WD4COL

**OFFICIAL BULLETIN NR 704 FROM ARRL HEADQUARTERS —
NEWINGTON CT APRIL 20, 1978 TO ALL RADIO AMATEURS BT**

In a special revision released on April 5, 1978 the FCC reminded American Amateur radio operators of the restraints on international third party communications. The United States now has third party agreements with Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Ghana, Guatemala, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Israel, Jamaica, Jordan, Liberia, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Trinidad & Tobago, Uruguay and Venezuela. A special agreement with the ITU permits certain third party communications with 4U1ITU. The Commission further reminded U.S. Amateurs that transmission or delivery of international third party messages is prohibited unless an agreement under Section 2 of Article 41 of the ITU Radio Regulations has been announced by FCC. See QST League Lines and Washington Mailbox for further details. AR

Continued **FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION**
FIELD OPERATIONS BUREAU

- 4 -

$$\frac{246 \times (\text{Velocity Factor})}{\text{Undesired signal in Mc}} = \text{Line length in feet}$$

For a half wave stub shorted at the far end substitute "492" in place of "246" and calculate in the same manner. The Velocity Factor (k) is approximately:

0.83 for 300 ohm twin lead; 0.77 for 150 ohm twin lead; 0.69 for 75 ohm twin lead;
0.67 for solid dielectric coaxial cable.

The physical and electrical length may vary, depending upon the material used for the stub, and for this reason "pruning" may be necessary. In the case of a half wave shorted stub using twin lead, a piece of tinfoil may be wrapped around the line and this shorting device moved until the interference disappears. Careful pruning with a pair of cutting pliers will serve the same purpose.

- (c) Interference due solely to inability of a receiver using 21 Mc i.f. to reject 21 Mc band fundamental frequency transmissions can usually be remedied by having a serviceman realign the i.f. circuits of the TV receiver to a slightly higher frequency.
- (d) A pair of correctly spaced Lecher wires, set up to an appropriate length and calibrated to include receiver i.f. and television channels will materially aid in determining the frequency, or combination of frequencies, causing the interference.
- (e) Aside from the immediate problem of interference believed to be caused by an Amateur station, experience has shown that installation of a high-pass filter will often improve reception in general by reducing the probability of future interference from other sources.

The Commission trusts that the foregoing information will be of help to you in clearing any reports of neighborhood television interference brought to your attention, and would appreciate receiving information from you as to steps you may take toward eliminating or reducing the interference caused by operation of your amateur station, indicating the particular device that was most effective.

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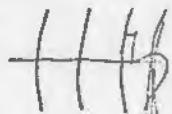
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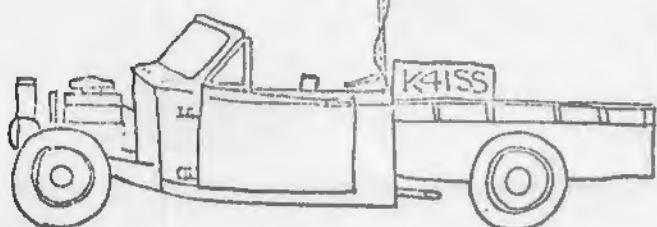
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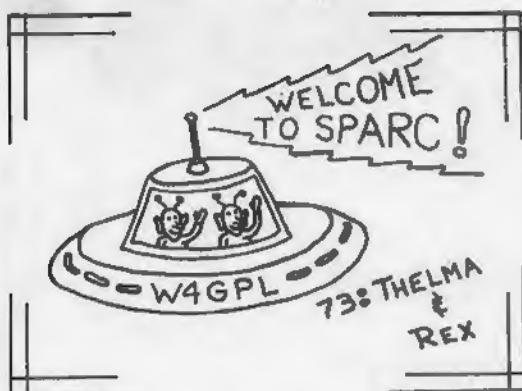
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